

Suspected Terrorists Captured in Joint Operation

By Sgt. Jennifer J. Eidson
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SUMMERALL, BAYJI, Iraq – Task Force Dragoon and Iraqi army soldiers captured suspected terrorists during a cordon and search operation here in early June.

Dubbed Operation Huertgen Forest, the mission consisted of an early morning cordon of the Salah Ad Din Province city, and searches of target homes. Joint forces arrested 16 detainees, including three of the eight suspects targeted by the operation, said task force commander Lt. Col. Philip J. Logan.

Bayji, a key oil and power generation station in north-central Iraq, lies at a crossroads connecting Baghdad and Mosul south to north, and Hadithah and Kirkuk west to east. Terrorists transit the area frequently moving from city to city, Logan said.

"We had approximately 600 Soldiers out in the sector," Logan said. "The intent was to cordon off a section of West Bayji ... with elements of three different companies creating a barrier, not letting anyone in or getting out, and then using two infantry companies with their Iraqi army counterparts to hit eight objectives within the cordon."

Logan said target locations were determined by intelligence culled from military sources and local Iraqis willing to provide information.

"We refined those objectives continuously, up until last night, based on intelligence we were getting from sources that allowed us to single out target houses or target areas within the cordon," he said.

The Soldiers also found weapons caches and materials for making improvised explosive devices, Logan said.

Capt. Anthony Callum, commander of Task

Force Dragoon's Company A, 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry, said all the Soldiers did an excellent job.

"Everything worked well," Callum said. "It was a tough start this morning with the sand storm, but everybody went right to their targets. They hit their targets on time and we got the detainees we were looking for. The [Iraqi army] was successful in getting to their target. They went to the cemetery and found a lot of weapons caches." An operation this size takes a lot of coordination, Callum said.

"Anytime you do a battalion-size operation it is pretty impressive because of all the moving parts, different units coming from different directions and our company hit three different targets at three different locations," he said. "Anytime we work with the Iraqi army with battalion-size missions, it is good for them to see all the different units involved."

Overall, the mission went very well Logan said. He believes the information gleaned from the detainees will lead to future searches and the capture of more high value targets.

"It was a successful day," Logan said. "We got some of them that we were looking for and we were able to integrate the Iraqi army in the operation. It is a never-ending process, but we will continue to do it as long as we are here, and we will hand off all the information to the next unit that comes in, and they will continue. It's not really a sexy job, it is not really spectacular, but it is what we do."



Sgt. 1st Class Phill Osbourn, 1st Platoon, Company A, 111th Infantry inventories weapons found in a Bayji home during Operation Huertgen Forest. The cordon and search mission by Task Force Dragoon and Iraqi army soldiers netted 16 detainees, three of whom are suspected of terrorism around Forward Operating Base Summerall.

Tip From Iraqi Civilian Leads Troops to Weapons Cache

By Spc. Adam Phelps
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq – Based on information from an Iraqi civilian, Soldiers from B Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Armor Regiment, Task Force Liberty discovered an unexploded ordnance cache in the Kirkuk Province June 29.

"By far, this is the biggest weapons cache the 116th has found," said 1st Lt. John Thew, B Company, 3rd Battalion 116th Armor Regiment from Cove, Ore. "We have found in one day what usually takes four months."

We received a call that a man wanted to show

us where some bombs were, Thew added. "We followed him out to the site in the middle of the night and he pointed to some rounds. After assessing the situation, we realized it was more than we were going to be able to deal with that night."

The Iraqi police guarded the weapons cache until morning, when the Explosive Ordnance Detachment arrived.

"Finds like this are important," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Becker, 506th Air Expeditionary Group, Explosive Ordnance Detachment and native of Warrensburg, Mo. "We've seen signs that terrorists are running low on ordnance

to use on roadside improvised explosive devices and vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks. This [find] makes it harder for [the terrorists], especially when we take out a major weapons cache."

"The Iraqi police were very helpful. They were working the shovels with us and helping us anyway they could," Becker said. "Most of the [munitions] were in good, safe condition, so we were comfortable with letting the Iraqi army, police and civilians help."

"Hopefully, this can be attributed to saving many lives and combat equipment in the area of Kirkuk," Thew said.

'Five Cs' simplify improvised explosive device fight

By Staff Sgt. Mark St.Clair

Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs Office

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Five potentially life-saving words are being driven home to Coalition service members and civilians throughout the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater.

Confirm, clear, call, cordon, and control are the "Five Cs" that represent a simple set of guidelines that Coalition forces can and should use when encountering a suspected improvised explosive device. "The reason we teach the Five Cs is because they make an easy to remember guide for (service members) to follow if they suspect or find an IED," said Alex Szigedi, operations officer, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Task Force, Camp Victory.

Using methods like the Five Cs simplifies IED awareness and "helps in the decision-making process, helping it become second-nature. They're also on the IED Smart Card," said Lt. Col. Ted Martin, chief, JIEDDTF. The IED Smart Card is produced by the Victory-based IED Working Group.

The IED Working Group, led by British Maj. Gen. Mark Mans, MNC-I deputy commander, meets weekly. Liaisons from major subordinate ground units, information operations delegates, ordnance-destruction contractors and others come together to discuss advances being made in the IED fight, changes in insurgent tactics and the most important issue: how to get valuable information down to where it matters - the troops on the ground.

"We'd never encountered anything like (IEDs) on the battlefield, and we're not shy about going to people with expertise," said Lt. Col. Ted Martin, chief, JIEDDTF. Some of the "people with expertise" have been Coalition soldiers in the British army, who have been dealing with IEDs in theaters like Northern Ireland for years. The British used a Four-C model to counter IEDs in the past, and Coalition forces in Iraq used that as a framework and adapted it to the present fight, said Martin.

Confirm

The first step when encountering a suspected IED is confirming its existence. If service members suspect an IED while performing 5- and 25-meter searches of their positions, they should act like it could detonate at any moment, even if the suspected IED turns out to be a false alarm. Using as few people as possible, troops should begin looking for telltale signs of IEDs – like wires or pieces of ordnance sticking out of the ground. As Martin said, "There's no place like Iraq when it comes to ammunition on the ground." So what looks like an IED may be a piece of unexploded ordnance but it should be treated like an IED until it is determined that it's not.

While searching, troops should try to stay as safe as possible, using anything available for protection. If a better view is needed while searching, soldiers should move as safely as possible while maintaining as much distance as they can from the suspected IED to continue

searching. Rifle scopes, binoculars and even cameras can be used to search from a safer distance. It also may be helpful to ask local Iraqis for information, but troops should never ask them to search too. Personnel should never try to touch a suspected IED and should never try to do the job explosive ordnance disposal technicians are specially trained to do.

setting patterns and monitoring non-Coalition personnel watching the situation, troops are better protected.

Call

While the area surrounding the IED is being cleared, a nine-line IED/UXO report should be called in. The report is much like the nine-line report used for medically evacuating casualties, and includes the necessary information for the unit's Tactical Operations Center (TOC) to assess the situation and prepare an appropriate response to clear the IED as the threat.

Cordon

After the area has been cleared and the IED has been called in, Soldiers should establish blocking positions around the area to prevent vehicle and foot traffic from approaching the IED; make sure the safe area is truly safe by checking for secondary IEDs; and make use of all available cover. The effected area's entire perimeter should be secured and dominated by all available personnel, and any available obstacles should be used to block vehicle approach routes.

Troops should scan both near and far and look for an enemy who may be watching and waiting to detonate the IED. Insurgents often hide in locations where they can see the device and ascertain the right moment to detonate. Personnel should randomly check people leaving the area to deter attacks, again avoiding setting patterns. Establishing obstacles to control approaches to security positions is another tactic the JIEDDTF stresses, since insurgents may try to attack local security forces using a vehicle-borne IED.

Control

Since the distance of all personnel from the IED directly affects their safety, service members should control the site to prevent someone from straying dangerously close to the IED until it is cleared. The task force stresses that no one should leave the area until EOD gives the "all clear." While controlling the site, make sure all the troops in the area know what to do if attacked with small arms or rocket-propelled grenades.

If troops are a part of a patrol or convoy that finds an IED, they should remember the Five Cs in order to deal with the situation as quickly and safely as possible. An IED that is found is still an IED attack, said the JIEDDTF. By finding the IED, it's the enemy's attack that has been disrupted.

"(The Five Cs) reinforce IED awareness and training. It's a checklist that helps you think; it's a common-sense thing ... to help people remember the proper steps when encountering an IED, said Szigedi. (Editor's note: Information in this article was provided by the Joint IED Defeat Task Force.)

Use the five C's to secure an IED site.

Confirm : the device

Clear : the area

Call : EOD

Cordon : the perimeter

Control : site access



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IEDs KILL

Clear

If an IED has been confirmed, the next step is to clear the area. The safe distance is determined by several factors: the tactical situation, avoiding being predictable and moving several hundred meters away from the IED. Everyone within the safe distance should be evacuated. If more room is needed, such as when the IED is vehicle-borne, soldiers should clear a wider area and constantly direct people out of the danger area. The only people going near the IED should be those who are there to diffuse it, such as EOD personnel. While clearing the area, soldiers should constantly be on the lookout for secondary IEDs. If any such devices are found, they should reposition to a safe area and report the find to the ranking service member on the scene. Soldiers should try not to set patterns while performing clearing procedures, so the enemy will not be able to learn from our tactics and techniques. By not